Create a table that assesses the benefits and drawbacks of the following types of technology for communicating with parents: Emailing Newsletters, Phone Blasts (Mass Recorded Phone Calls), Mail Merging Letters, Parent Video Conferences, and Social Media. (Your references will be made towards specific technologies as examples.) Provide two [2] learning management systems (Google Classroom, Classcraft, Edmodo, Schoology, IO Classroom, etc.) in your response that illustrates their parent engagement features.

- *Comments:* Share a communication tool that you use to communicate, be specific about the technology.

Using Technology for Communication with Parents

Types of Technology	Benefits	Drawbacks
Emailing Newsletters	It is cost-effective, easy to send home, links can be included, and attachments.	May not reach the parents who don't check emails regularly. They can be overlooked or lost in the inbox.
Phone Blast	It is a quick and efficient way to reach parents instantly. I mostly talk to my ELL parents not only to share the issues or problem but also to provide positive feedback about my students. Which brings a more interactive and positive learning environment to my classroom.	But may not be suitable for lengthy messages. It can be invasive or disruptive. Sometimes, it becomes more difficult to communicate with only Spanish-speaking parents as we need to use a translator, and for planning for those services, we are supposed to plan ahead of time. Therefore, urgent concerns can not be shared with parents.
Mails Merging Letters	Mail merging letters are personalized records, and they are tangible as well as kept for reference. I must use the translated version of each letter in Spanish and a couple of Urdu, Punjabi, and Mandarin.	They can be time-consuming and costly to print and mail. They are not environment friendly.
Parent Video Conferences	It is a very good opportunity for face-to-face interaction. It can build a stronger relationship.	It requires scheduling and technology infrastructure. There can be connectivity issues.

	In our district two Parent Teacher Conferences are conducted each school year, which are virtual since COVID. It allows me and the parents to communicate with the student one-on-one. We share concerns, and questions, and provide positive feedback for our students.	As we have ELL students, so their parents also have English as a second language and most of them do not show up for conferences. They might be not comfortable of speaking in their native language with their child's teacher. They might be reserved, shy, and facing other socio-economic challenges. Overall turnout is very low.
Social media	It has a wide range, easy to share and engage. We can do two-way communication. In our district we prefer using Genesis, Schools websites, and Google Classrooms.	May not be suitable for formal or confidential communication. It can be distracting or overwhelming. Not highly used and recommended in our district.

I completely understand the importance of parent-teacher communication. It is the key to a student's success. Communication with parents by using technology is an effective and easier way to connect the parents. It saves time and gives us variety of options to communicate with parents by using technology. It helps to translate and make it easier to communicate with parents who do not speak the same primary language as you do.

I prefer using emails, Google Classrooms, and parent-teacher virtual conferences to communicate and interact with parents. When we teachers stay in touch with parents regularly it helps reduce issues or problems, share concerns and questions, and create a welcoming environment by sharing positive feedback.

I am regularly in touch with parents by email. Every school year I sent a welcoming email to my ELL parents about our programs, curriculum, and a little personal introduction. I encourage them to share their questions and concerns with me. I sent emails using translate mode in their native languages, so the message should be conveyed and understood. I share

students' progress, their problems, and provide with positive feedback to the parents through emails.

Secondly, we conduct two virtual Parent-Teacher conferences annually. They are 1-1 and consist of at least 5-10 minutes. Other than these two annual conferences we can schedule a conference whenever we feel the need it to share any concerns, problems, or to improve the progress of our students as needed.

Lastly, we communicate with parents through Google Classrooms. We post notices and any updates on Google Classroom. In our district, we are supposed to post the lesson objectives on daily basis for not only students but also for parents to what content and language objectives they will be learning each day. By allowing parents access to Google Classroom, it increased access and transparency which make parents feel more entitled to know everything about their child's classroom. It also reinforces students' responsibility rather than transferring ownership to parents.

Reference:

The pros and cons of using technology to communicate with k-12 parents. (n.d.) https://otus.com/blog/the-pros-and-cons-of-using-technology-to-communicate-with-k-12-parents/